

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 EB-07

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 DHA-02 /080 W

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P R 291438Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0535

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

UNCLAS HELSINKI 2060

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, FI

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER MIETTUNEN HEADS NEW CENTRIST MINORITY
GOVERNMENT

REF: HELSINKI 2039 AND PREVIOUS

1. IN A SURPRISE MOVE PRESIDENT KEKKONEN SEPTEMBER 27
NAMED PRIME MINISTER MARTTI MIETTUNEN TO FORM A NEW GOVERN-
MENT WITH MIETTUNEN AGAIN SERVING AS PRIME MINISTER.
MIETTUNEN ANNOUNCED HIS NEW THREE PARTY, 16 MEMBER CABINET
TODAY (SEPT 29).

2. ALTHOUGH MIETTUNEN STAYS ON AS PRIME MINISTER, THE NEW
GOVERNMENT IS CONSIDERED JUST THAT, A NEW GOVERNMENT,
BECAUSE IT HAS CHANGED FROM A FIVE-PARTY MAJORITY COALITION
TO A THREE-PARTY MINORITY COALITION. IN ADDITION THERE HAS
BEEN A HEAVY TURNOVER IN MINISTERIAL POSTS; OF THE EIGHTEEN
CABINET MEMBERS OF THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT, ONLY FIVE
REMAIN. ALSO, THE CABINET HAS BEEN REDUCED IN SIZE
FROM 18 TO 16 MINISTERS.

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3. THE NEW CABINET IS COMPOSED OF 9 MEMBERS FROM THE

CENTER PARTY, 3 MEMBERS FROM THE SWEDISH PEOPLE'S PARTY, 3 MINISTERS FROM THE LIBERAL PEOPLE'S PARTY AND ONE INDEPENDENT. THE CABINET THUS BECOMES THE FIRST COMPLETELY BOURGEOIS CABINET (NO SOCIALIST, NO COMMUNIST MINISTERS) IN FINLAND SINCE 1966. THE NEW CABINET IS MADE UP AS FOLLOWS (BY PARTY, AGE AND BRIEF BIOGRAPHIC DATA):
(A) PRIME MINISTER: MARTTI MIETTUNEN (CENTER, 69, THIRD TIME AS PRIME MINISTER, GOVERNOR OF LAPLAND (1958-1973).

(B) MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO (AND "SUBSTITUTE" OR DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER): AHTI KARJALAINEN (CENTER, 53, SEVERAL TIMES FORMER PRIME MINISTER, HAS HELD CABINET POSTS LONGER THAN ANYONE IN FINNISH HISTORY).

(C) MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS: KEIJO KORHONEN (CENTER, 42, FORMER FOREIGN POLICY ADVISOR TO PRESIDENT KEKKONEN AND STILL VERY CLOSE TO PRESIDENT. FONMIN OFFICIAL 1967-74, PROF OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, UN OF HELSINKI 1974-76.)

(D) MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY: JOHANNES VIROLAINEN (CENTER, 62, CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF CENTER PARTY. HAS BEEN MINISTER IN 13 PREVIOUS GOVERNMENTS).

(E) MINISTER OF EDUCATION: MARJATTA VAANANEN (CENTER, 53, VICE-CHAIRMAN CENTER PARTY, IN SORSA CABINET 1972-75).

(F) MINISTER OF LABOR: PAAVO VAYRYNEN (CENTER, 30, ALSO VICE-CHAIRMAN CENTER PARTY; WAS MINISTER OF EDUCATION IN LAST GOVERNMENT).

(G) MINISTER OF INTERIOR: EINO UUSITALO (CENTER, 51, WAS CHAIRMAN CENTER PARLIAMENTARY GROUP, MINISTER OF INTERIOR IN 1971).

(H) MINISTER OF FINANCE: ESKO REKOLA (INDEPEDENT, 57, WAS SECOND MINISTER OF FINANCE IN LAST GOVERNMENT, UNCLASSIFIED
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DIRECTOR GENERAL OF FINNISH RAILWAYS 1966-73).

(I) SECOND MINISTER OF FINANCE: JOUKO LOIKKANEN (CENTER, 44, WAS MIETTUNEN POLITICAL SECRETARY DURING LAST GOVERNMENT. ALSO WAS POLITICAL SECRETARY OF PRIME MINISTERS FROM 1962-66).

(J) MINISTER OF JUSTICE: KRISTIAN GESTRIN (SWEDISH PEOPLE'S PARTY, 47, FOURTH CABINET POST, WAS ALSO MINISTER OF JUSTICE IN PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT. FORMER

MINISTER OF DEFENSE, MINISTER OF COMMERCE. FORMER CHAIRMAN OF HIS PARTY).

(K) MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE: CARL-GORAN AMINOFF (SWEDISH PEOPLE'S PARTY, 60, FORMER MANAGING DIRECTOR OF INSURANCE COMPANY, MEMBER OF SWEDISH PARTY COUNCIL SINCE 1961. FIRST GOVERNMENT POSITION).

(L) MINISTER OF DEFENSE: SEPPO WESTERLUND (LIBERAL PEOPLE'S PARTY, 45, MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT SINCE 1970, VICE CHAIRMAN OF HIS PARTY'S PARLIAMENTARY GROUP. FIRST CABINET POST).

(M) MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS: RAGNAR GRANVIK (SWEDISH PEOPLE'S PARTY, 56, FARMER, VICE CHAIRMAN OF PARTY 1972-76. FIRST CABINET POST).

(N) MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND HEALTH: IRMA TOIVANEN (LIBERAL PEOPLE'S PARTY, 53, STAYS IN SAME POSITION AS IN PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT).

(O) SECOND MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS AND HEALTH: ORVOKKI KANGAS (CENTER PARTY, 55, MP SINCE 1970. FIRST CABINET POST. VICE CHAIRMAN CENTER PARTY WOMEN'S LEAGUE).

(P) MINISTER OF COMMERCE: ARNE BERNER (LIBERAL PEOPLE'S PARTY, 48, FORMER MINISTER OF COMMERCE ALSO 1970-71. VICE CHAIRMAN OF HIS PARTY, MEMBER HELSINKI CITY COUNCIL).

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4. ANALYSIS WILL FOLLOW.
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